



Number 28 | October 2008

Air Displays

At varying times Agency personnel make requests to the SAU on behalf of their community, for fire aircraft to conduct or participate in an air display or static display.

Whilst sympathetic to these requests, the SAU advises that the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) has strict requirements for air displays which must be adhered to.

Civil Aviation Order (CAO) 29.4 specifies that an air display means any "organised flying including exhibitions of flying performed before a public gathering".

Examples of an air display for Agency purposes are:

- Demonstration of firebombing, rappelling etc to school groups, volunteer organisations, media.

Agency pre-season aircraft training days do not constitute an air display unless the public is invited for viewing purposes (which has occurred).

The CAO specifies that an air display shall not be conducted without the written approval of CASA.

Requests for an air display permit must be submitted to CASA at least 28 days in advance of the display date.

Where Agency aircraft are requested to participate in an air display, an Air Display permit is obtained from CASA by the respective aircraft operator.

It is worth noting that CASA are very reluctant to issue display permits for events other than a recognised air show or display.

The SAU requires that the site for a proposed air or static display involving Agency aircraft, not on a recognised airfield, shall be inspected by the aircraft pilot and an accredited experienced Agency aviation person prior to the submission of the permit or aircraft request.

This site inspection is to be conducted to ensure not only the safety of the aircraft flying but also the safety of the viewing public and local residents.

Where a request is made for an aircraft to be on static display, CASA approval is not required but all security and control measures must still be adhered to especially when aircraft are landing or talking off.

An accredited Agency aviation person must be directly involved in the planning and conduct of any display – flying or static.

All requests for Agency involvement in an air display shall be made to the SAU. The respective operator/pilot will then be contacted.

Irrespective of whether it is a flying or static display, the following information is required by the SAU when requesting an aircraft for any display:

- Date and locality of proposed display.
- Written request is made by display organiser.
- Written approval of land owner is obtained (where non-airport / airstrip is used).
- Display program.
- Aircraft details.
- Site inspection details.
- Agency site control and security measures.
- Who is paying?

When Agency aircraft may be requested to participate in an organised airshow event, ie. Avalon airshow, it is the Organiser's responsibility to obtain approval from CASA for the Agency aircraft involved.

Contact Officer:

Barry Scott
Manager Aviation Services